

## **Planning Commission Comments Against the Pool and Large Recreation Center and in Support of the Three Smaller Community Centers**

Do you remember when the citizens of West Linn were asked if they wanted a pool or wanted to use N. Clackamas Aquatic, just ten to fifteen minutes away, and save the \$25 million instead? They voted for the latter. Now the cost of the pool and recreation center is approximately \$60 million.

There has been very little citizen input on this plan because there has not been much outreach. This should have been discussed at all eleven Neighborhood Associations and at a meeting of the Neighborhood Association Presidents since it will impact all the people who live in West Linn.

I am very much opposed to the large community center/aquatic center which is once again being proposed in West Linn. Check page 156 of the Master Plan document for this proposed 16,500 square feet of pool space. How many times does a unified "No" need to be heard?

In November of 2013 the people of our city spoke very forcefully when they voted "No" on this idea on Measure 3-432. In an article the Tidings headlined "Pool Measure Sinks by Large Margin," the 76 percent vote against spoke volumes. A recent Poll done by the City in December of 2017 and January of 2018 once again showed support of only 22 percent. That

makes it twice in the past five years that the people have said that they oppose this idea and by almost the same numbers.

In the past nine years more than 2,000 pools have closed throughout the US. This is according to Mike Nelson, Facilities Development Director for USA Swimming. The substantial expenses that accompany public pools include lifeguard wages, training, and insurance. Construction, maintenance, and employee salaries and PERS contributions are also major costs.

Instead, I am in support of smaller community centers which have already been built. They just need to be updated and made ADA <sup>+ Code</sup> compliant. The three that fit the bill are Robinwood Station, Bolton Fire House, and Sunset Fire Hall. Let's show the kids a good example. Let's not waste buildings in West Linn but repurpose them instead.

Neighborhood support for all three of these facilities is solid. Most citizens want to use the three community centers that have already been built in this town and that have withstood the test of time. Please do not allow money to be wasted on new construction when all that is needed is an upgrade of existing facilities. I noticed in one of the articles on this in the Tidings that there are volunteers ready and willing to help with some of the needed upgrades.

Roberta Schwarz  
West Linn